



KANSAS RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE GUIDE

"SMALL TOWNS ... BIG PLANS"

RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KANSAS

Rural development rarely makes headlines in the big cities. But for the rural communities working to improve their quality of life, small towns are a big deal. Here in Kansas, rural communities remain a crucial part of our state's economy, culture and character. They're woven into our history, and they have a huge role to play in our future.

With this in mind, a number of public and private organizations have set out to help rural communities solve problems, achieve goals and remain viable. While these organizations often have different approaches and areas of expertise, they all work together in pursuit of the same goal — rural development in Kansas.

This brochure provides an overview of the rural development organizations and services available in Kansas. These resources are divided into the following four categories:

- I. Business Development**
- II. Community Capacity Building**
- III. Community Development**
- IV. Regional Assistance**

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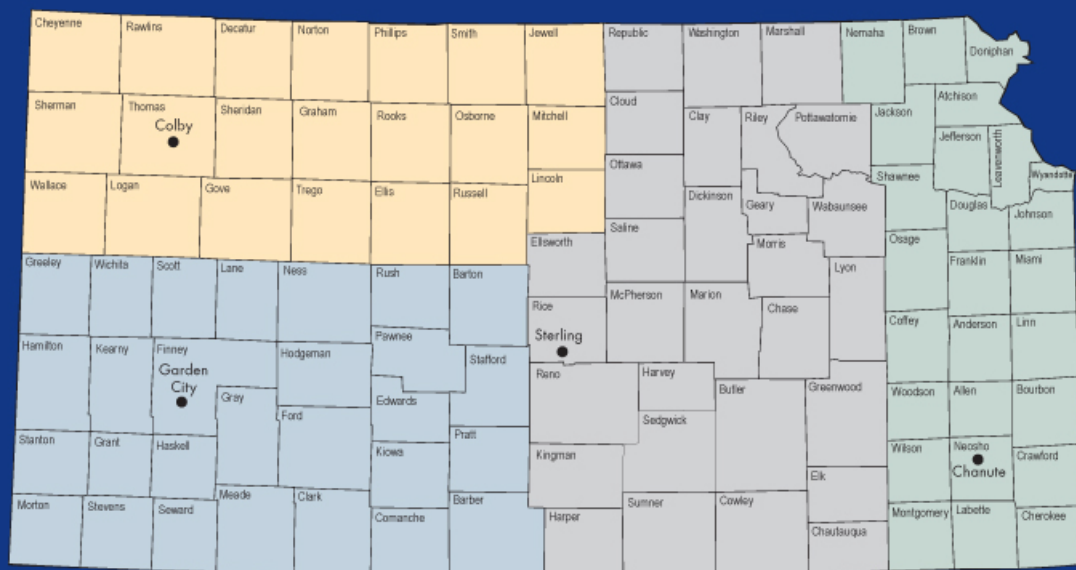


OFFICE OF RURAL OPPORTUNITY

The Office of Rural Opportunity is designed to spur rural development in Kansas communities of 5,000 or less. Housed within the Rural Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Office serves rural communities seeking assistance in the development of strategic plans to attract businesses, workers and investment. The Office is also designed as a one-stop contact for information on all of the organizations and resources listed in this brochure.

The Office has four regional locations throughout Kansas. You can locate and contact your regional Office representative by using the map below.

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I. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

No two businesses are exactly alike. But there are some things that every business needs to be successful — things like technical assistance, access to capital, an educated workforce and a statewide network of partners committed to businesses development. The following organizations and programs are designed specifically to help rural businesses access the resources they need.

Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA) The Kansas Bioscience Authority was created in 2004 to encourage the growth of Kansas' bioscience industry. The KBA works with a variety of public, private and academic institutions to increase the state's capacity to recruit biotech companies, help existing companies access capital investment, grow Kansas' biotech-related workforce and expand the state's capacity for high-level research and commercialization.
kansasbioauthority.org

Kansas Center for Entrepreneurship (NetWork Kansas) NetWork Kansas is the nation's first statewide network devoted specifically to entrepreneurship and small business. Through its referral center, NetWork Kansas helps entrepreneurs and small-businesses tap a network of more than 450 partners to find the resources they need. NetWork Kansas also provides funds for communities and businesses via matching grants and loans, including opportunities for communities to raise capital for rural community projects.
Networkkansas.com

Kansas Department of Commerce – Agriculture Marketing Section The Agriculture Marketing Section works to improve the economic condition of Kansas producers, who in turn boost the prosperity of rural communities. Agriculture Marketing staff offers expertise in ag-related fields such as agritourism, biofuels and product diversification. Technical and financial assistance is provided through the Agriculture Value Added Loan Program, Simply Kansas and other international and domestic marketing programs.
KansasCommerce.com

Kansas Department of Commerce – Business Development Division The Business Development Division works to promote the growth and retention of existing business and industry in Kansas and is also responsible for the recruitment of new businesses and new jobs. The Division has four different sections: Business Assistance, Business Finance, Business Recruitment and the Office of Minority and Women Business Development.
KansasCommerce.com

Kansas Department of Commerce – Travel & Tourism Division The Travel & Tourism Division encourages leisure travel within Kansas by promoting the recreational, historic and natural advantages of the state and its facilities. The Division also works with local tourism groups, organizations and businesses statewide to encourage the development of new or existing tourism attractions.
KansasCommerce.com

Kansas Small Business Development Center (KSBDC) The Kansas Small Business Development Center helps small businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs compete in today's global economy. Administered by Fort Hays State University, the KSBDC comprises eight Regional KSBDC Centers and various Outreach Centers, which combine the resources of the state's best educational institutions, the private sector and all levels of government.
kansas.gov/ksbdc

Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC) KTEC is a public/private partnership established by the state to promote technology-based economic development. The group serves as a direct partner to Kansas businesses by supporting strategic research and development at Kansas universities, providing hands-on business assistance at business incubators and making direct equity investments in early-stage companies.
www.ktec.com

II. COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Sure, you need to work hard to improve your community. But you also need to work smart — and that means building community capacity through strategic planning and grassroots organization before embarking on specific development projects. The following programs and services are available to help communities undertake capacity-building activities in preparation for specific development projects.

Center for Community Support & Research (CCSR) The CCSR at Wichita State University partners with communities and organizations to strengthen Kansas through education, leadership development, facilitation and research. CCSR's staff works directly with community coalitions, non-profit health and human services organizations and self-help groups to facilitate working sessions with these organizations.
ccsr.wichita.edu

Home Town Prosperity Initiative (HTPI) HTPI is a grassroots initiative of the Kansas Farm Bureau designed to bring together communities and agencies across Kansas in a comprehensive rural development effort. The HTPI currently is dedicated to working with communities to identify local leaders and build community capacity to sustain ongoing projects.
kfb.org

Kansas Communities, LLC Kansas Communities, LLC consults with cities and counties to improve capacity in four key areas: business, education, health/human services and government. Service is provided through a grassroots process, utilizing interviews, community conversation, goal setting, citizen action teams and public accountability. Expected outcomes include a change in community attitude, entrepreneurial activity and the development of new leaders and partnerships in all four areas.
kscomm.net

Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) KLC's mission is to cultivate civic leadership in rural and urban communities. KLC aspires to create and deliver educational programs to improve the leadership skills of Kansans who wish to demonstrate leadership in their communities, neighborhoods and organizations via public service. Various leadership development programs are offered several times each year.
kansasleadershipcenter.org

Kansas PRIDE PRIDE is a partnership of K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce that helps local governments and volunteers improve their communities. Through PRIDE, local volunteers organize to implement an inclusive approach to community improvement. PRIDE is able to provide educational support, evaluation and public recognition for successful community efforts.
kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu

Kansas State University Center for Engagement and Community Development (CECD) CECD links Kansas State University faculty and community leaders to address community challenges through University outreach and engagement. CECD organizes the research, teaching and resources of KSU to meet community development needs in Kansas.
k-state.edu/cecd

KU Institute for Policy & Social Research (IPSR) IPSR brings together social scientists from a broad range of disciplines to conduct research and reinforce local capacities for advancing economic development among Kansas communities. Staff also provides educational training and technical assistance, including property tax abatement assessment, to Kansas communities. IPSR works with the KU School of Business on the KU for KS Initiative, which is designed to strengthen economic competitiveness in underserved areas of Kansas.
www.ipsr.ku.edu

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

For communities that have already come together and collaborated on a strategic plan, the next step is exploring financial and technical resources available to undertake community development projects. The following organizations and programs are designed specifically for communities engaging in community development projects.

Kansas Department of Commerce

Rural Development Division – Community Development

Community Assistance Services (CAS) Community Assistance Services encompass all state-funded community development efforts within Commerce. Areas of focus include sustainable downtown districts, local planning efforts and projects that improve quality of life, increase local capacity and support rural development in collaboration with local partners. Assistance includes tax credits and a variety of financial and technical support.
KansasCommerce.com

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) The CDBG Program allows Commerce to distribute federal funds to Kansas cities and counties for community development. To qualify for funds, a community must demonstrate that a proposed project: benefits low- or moderate-income individuals; removes or prevents slum or blight conditions; or eliminates an urgent need created by a severe natural or other disaster when local funds are not available.
KansasCommerce.com

Kansas Main Street Program The Kansas Main Street Program is a self-help technical assistance program that targets preservation and revitalization of historic downtown districts. Communities become Main Street cities through a competitive application process. The program offers management training, consulting, program evaluation, design assistance, business enhancement strategies and incentive dollars to designated communities under 50,000 in population.
KansasCommerce.com/MainStreet

Kansas Department of Commerce – Kansas Partnership Fund The Kansas Partnership Fund provides financial assistance to Kansas cities and counties by making low-interest loans for infrastructure improvements that are deemed necessary to attract new business or expand existing businesses. This is a revolving loan fund available to all cities and counties in Kansas.
KansasCommerce.com

Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) KDOT helps its partners identify and apply for state and federal funds for transportation projects throughout the state. A number of KDOT programs focus on important aspects of community development, including safety, economic growth and maintaining infrastructure. Specific funding is available for streetscapes, landscapes, safe school routes and other enhancements.
ksdot.org

USDA-Rural Development USDA-Rural Development offers financial programs to support essential public facilities and services such as water and sewer systems, housing, health clinics, emergency service facilities and electric and telephone service. The office promotes economic development by supporting loans to businesses through banks and community-managed lending pools. Technical assistance is provided to help agricultural cooperatives and communities undertaking community empowerment programs.
www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

IV. REGIONAL ASSISTANCE

Rural development begins at the local level with local organizations. But don't forget to explore the regional organizations and resources available here in Kansas. The following community and business development organizations and services are administered at the regional level throughout Kansas.

Kansas Association of Certified Development Companies (KACDC) The KACDC promotes the development of small-business concerns through its support of local Certified Development Companies (CDCs). Kansas CDCs assist businesses by developing loan packages that often contain more than one source of project funding (including federal and state government sources), thus providing the small-business customer with the best combination of rates and terms possible.

kacdc.com

Kansas Association of Community College Trustees (KACCT) KACCT is the organizational body for the state's 19 community colleges. These colleges provide many assets to communities and locally driven economic development endeavors through workforce development programs and apprenticeships. A number of colleges leverage resources with other state resource partners, including the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas Small Business Development Center.

kacct.org

Kansas Association of Community Foundations (KACF) KACF is dedicated to strengthening Kansas communities through charitable giving and building endowments that support current and future needs throughout the state. KACF helps individuals, families and businesses plan and implement their charitable giving via a network of local community foundations.

kansascfs.org

Kansas Department of Commerce – Enterprise Facilitation Enterprise Facilitation is designed to utilize community intelligence, train local citizens and increase local capacity to develop new small businesses. Community Development Block Grant technical assistance and State funds are used for training, to hire an Enterprise Facilitator and to build capacity within a large community enterprise board.

KansasCommerce.com

Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) KFB represents 40,000 farmers and ranchers who make their livings through production agriculture. KFB members have adopted policies supporting the development of rural community leaders, fostering entrepreneurship, retaining community wealth and attracting and retaining young people. With its county leadership systems already in place, KFB is positioned to help provide a strong support structure for rural development

kfb.org

Kansas Regional Foundations Kansas Regional Foundations are certified by the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Commerce to receive Rural Business Development Tax Credits. All 105 counties are covered by one of these foundations. Tax credits are offered to the foundations for use in raising capital for local economic development initiatives.

ksrevenue.org/taxcredits-RegionalFoundation.htm

Kansas State University Research and Extension (Extension) K-State Research and Extension provides education and outreach on issues related to rural environmental, economic, social, human and community health. Working to address the needs of the entire system of rural living, Extension provides a variety of programs focused on creating and sustaining healthy people, food and agricultural systems and communities. Extension has at least one professional living and working in each county in Kansas.

www.oznet.ksu.edu

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT:**

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